

**Minutes of the
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND WEATHERIZATION TASK FORCE**

August 24, 2026

12:34 PM

Virginia Department of Social Services

5600 Cox Road

Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Task Force Members Present

Phil Agee (virtual)
Amy Bowen, Vicechair (virtual)
Bryan Burris
Petrina Carter
Chase Counts (virtual)
Patrick Frere
Jamie Grant
Andrew Grigsby
Jacob Holmes (virtual)
Mark Jackson
Erik Johnston
Allison Kaufmann, Chair
Caetano de Campos Lopes
Tim Pettit
Denise Surber
Melissa Thomas
Anitra Watson
Dana Wiggins
Doug Wilkerson
Benjamin Woods

Task Force Members Absent

Carrie Hearne
John Farmer

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) staff present for all or part of the meeting:

Kenrick Cameron Jr., Policy Analyst
Jose Grivet, Technical Monitor/Inspector
Trisha Lindsey, Policy and Legislative Services Director
Andrew Malloy, Senior Policy Analyst
Cassidy Rasnick, Chief Operating Officer
Chase Sawyer, Policy and Legislative Services Manager
Aaron Shoemaker, Program Administrator
Michelle Tilton, Housing Program Manager

Call to Order

Mr. Malloy, Senior Policy Analyst at DHCD, called the meeting of the Task Force to order at 12:34 p.m.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Malloy. Mr. Malloy identified each Task Force member by the descriptions outlined in the authorizing legislation (HB3/SB5).

Representing the *Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development*, Mr. Tim Pettit, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency.

Representing the *Virginia Department of Energy*, Mr. Caetano de Campos Lopes, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency.

Representing the *Virginia Department of Social Services*, Ms. Denise Surber, Manager - Energy Assistance & Percentage of Income Payment Programs, Benefit Programs.

Representing the *Energy Commission of Virginia [Commission on Electric Utility Regulation]*, Ms. Carrie Hearne, Executive Director (absent).

Representing the *Division of Consumer Counsel of the Office of the Attorney General*, Mr. John Farmer (absent).

A *clean energy advocate*, Mr. Benjamin Wood representing the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council.

A member of the *residential construction industry*, Mr. Doug Wilkerson from TruTeam.

A member from a *firm specializing in residential and commercial building energy performance, building diagnostics, or energy code compliance*, Mr. Andrew Grigsby from Viridian.

An *energy burden advocate*, Mr. Chase Count representing the Association of Energy Conservation Professionals.

An *income-qualified ratepayer advocate*, Ms. Dana Wiggins representing the Virginia Poverty Law Center.

A representative from a *state institution of higher education*, Dr. Phil Agee from the Virginia Housing Research Center at Virginia Tech.

A utility provider, Ms. Anira Watson representing Dominion Energy.

A utility provider, Mr. Jacob Holmes representing Appalachian Power Company.

A utility provider, Ms. Allison Kaufmann representing Old Dominion Electric Cooperative.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Ms. Amy Bowen from Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Mr. Mark Jackson from Community Housing Partners.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Mr. Pat Frere from Bay Aging.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Ms. Petrina Carter from Tri-County Community Action Agency.

A representative from an organization that provides home energy assessments and weatherization services, Mr. Bryan Burris from project:HOMES.

An affordable housing advocate, Mr. Erik Johnston representing the Virginia Community Action Partnership.

A member deemed appropriate by DHCD, Ms. Melissa Thomas representing the Climate Equity Working Group.

A member deemed appropriate by DHCD, Ms. Jamie Grant representing the Rappahannock Tribe.

Mr. Malloy reported that a quorum was present.

Mr. Malloy noted that staff has yet to identify a Task Force member who is an *income-qualified ratepayer*. That position remains vacant and will be filled by the next meeting of the Task Force.

Election of Officers

Mr. Malloy opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Johnston nominated Ms. Kaufmann. Mr. Jackson seconded this nomination. No other Task Force members were nominated. Ms. Kaufmann was elected Chair of the Task Force by acclamation.

Ms. Kaufmann turned the meeting back to Mr. Malloy to facilitate the election of Vice Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Malloy opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair. Mr. Jackson nominated Ms. Bowen. Mr. Grigsby seconded this nomination. No other Task Force members were nominated. Ms. Bowen was elected Vice Chair of the Task Force by acclamation.

Task Force By-Laws

Mr. Malloy presented draft by-laws for the Task Force.

A motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Grigsby to approve the by-laws as presented. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None).

Electronic Meeting Policy

Mr. Malloy presented the Task Force's all-virtual meeting policy. A motion was made by Mr. Lopes and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the all-virtual meeting policy. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None).

Mr. Malloy presented the Task Force's remote participation policy. A motion was made by Mr. Lopes and seconded by Ms. Carter to approve the remote participation meeting policy. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None).

Overview of Legislation

Mr. Malloy provided an overview of the Task Force's enabling legislation HB3/SB5. He went over the purpose and purview of the Task Force as well as the budget item authorizing DHCD to utilize \$25,000,000 of unobligated balances in the Low-Income Energy Efficiency Program Fund to support the implementation of weatherization projects consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force.

Task Force members discussed the implementation funds tied to the findings and recommendations of the Task Force.

Task Force members discussed the approval process for Task Force’s report. Mr. Malloy shared that the legislation stipulates the report’s approval requires a majority vote of the members at a meeting with a quorum.

Task Force members discussed the definition of “income-qualified” spelled out in the legislation. Task Force members discussed the feasibility of categorical eligibility for applicants/recipients across the varying grant and incentive programs.

Weatherization Assistance
Program
(WAP)/Weatherization
Deferral Repair (WDR)
Overview

Mr. Pettit, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency, Ms. Michelle Tilton, Housing Program Manager, and Mr. Aaron Shoemaker, Program Administrator at DHCD presented on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and Weatherization Deferral Repair (WDR) programs. WAP, administered by DHCD and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, helps reduce energy consumption and utility costs for eligible low-income households (up to 200% of federal poverty guidelines or 60% of state median), with priority for families with children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. The program has a network of nonprofit and community action agencies to assess homes and install energy-efficient measures such as air sealing, insulation, HVAC repairs or replacements, ventilation, and energy-efficient lighting. WDR complements WAP by funding necessary home repairs that previously prevented a property from qualifying for weatherization, such as roof fixes, structural, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, moisture problems, mold, and other health and safety issues. WDR is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and requires clients to meet WAP eligibility. Repairs must be completed before weatherization measures are installed and clients must agree to receive both services.

Virginia Energy Program
Overview

Mr. Lopes, Associate Director of Energy Efficiency at Virginia Energy, presented on two federal energy rebate programs the Home Owner Managing Energy Savings (HOMES) and High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEEHR) and Virginia’s proposed allocation approach. Mr. Lopes also spoke about Virginia Energy Connect, a platform helping residents navigate the funding landscape by providing simplified information on available energy incentives.

Task Force members discussed funding related to Training for Residential Energy Contractors (TREC). Mr. Lopes responds that he has not yet heard that TREC funding was negatively impacted and is unclear on budgetary implications concerning workforce funding for home energy rebate programs.

Task Force members discussed the income levels tied to the proposed Virginia programs. Mr. Lopes shared low-and moderate-income households are defined as below 80% AMI and 80-150% AMI.

Task Force members discussed Virginia Energy Connect and its benefits including locating programs and understanding eligibility components. Task Force members inquired about funding allowance for technological upgrades to Virginia Energy Connect. Mr. Lopes shared Virginia Energy Connect received appropriation in the state budget along with other funding sources.

Task Force members discussed the party responsible for the money for weatherization, repair, and or rebates is? Mr. de Campos Lopes responds that the beneficiary is responsible, unless maximized by locality or utility provider.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to be discussed. Task Force members discussed various items after the presentations from DHCD and VA Energy. The meeting moved into New Business.

New Business

Task Force members discussed braided/stacked funding approaches to shift the responsibility away from the beneficiary. Task Force members shared instances of clientele being turned away as they could not cover co-funding responsibilities. Task Force members proposed that it may be beneficial for there to be a program or funds available to income-qualified persons to cover the costs associated with funding requirements for the available programs. Task Force members added smaller providers and contractors performing weatherization services often have cash-flow issues as they wait to be reimbursed for work.

Task Force members considered making a recommendation to authorize DHCD to use \$5 million of the budget item associated with the Task Force to support capacity building across the provider network. Mr. Malloy reminded Task Force members that action cannot be made on items not on the meeting's agenda per public meeting requirements. Task Force members

emphasized the time-sensitive matter of the funding capacity in the provider network in light of the new resources and funding streams.

Public Comment

Mr. Malloy opened the floor for public comment.

After seeing no speakers in-person or virtually, Mr. Malloy closed the public comment period.

Future Task Force
Meeting Dates

Mr. Malloy stated that the next meeting of the Task Force will be scheduled in October 2026 and DHCD staff will share the time and location ahead of the meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Burris and seconded by Mr. Lopes to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote (YEAS: Agee, Bowen, Burris, Carter, Counts, Frere, Grant, Grigsby, Holmes, Jackson, Johnston, Kaufmann, Lopes, Pettit, Surber, Thomas, Watson, Wiggins, Wilkerson, Woods; NAYS: None). The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.